

REPORT ON NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 4th February 1888.

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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	
BENGALI.					
Monthly.					
1	"Ahammadi"	Tangail, Mymensingh..	.....	29th January 1888.
2	"Kasipore Nibási"	Kasipore, Burrisal ...	.....	
Fortnightly.					
3	"Ave Maria"	Calcutta ...	.....	
4	"Gaura Duta"	Maldah ...	.....	
6	"Grambási"	Uluberia ...	.....	
6	"Púrva Bangabási"	Noakhally ...	.....	
7	"Purva Darpan"	Chittagong ...	700		
8	"Uttara Banga Hitaishi"	Mahiganj, Rungpore...	.....	
Weekly.					
9	"Arya Darpan"	Calcutta ...	102	27th ditto.	
10	"Bangabási"	Ditto ...	20,000	28th ditto.	
11	"Burdwán Sanjívani"	Burdwan ...	302	24th ditto.	
12	"Cháruvártá"	Sherepore, Mymensingh	600	23rd ditto.	
13	"Chattal Gazette"	Chittagong ...	.....	29th ditto.
14	"Dacca Prakásh"	Dacca ...	450		
15	"Dhumaketu"	Chandernagore ...	.....	27th ditto.
16	"Education Gazette"	Hooghly ...	825		
17	"Garíb and Mahavidya"	Dacca ...	.....	15th ditto.
18	"Hindu Ranjiká"	Beauleah, Rajshahye...	200		
19	"Jagatbási"	Calcutta ...	.....	26th ditto.
20	"Murshidábád Patriká"	Berhampore ...	508		
21	"Murshidábád Pratinidhi"	Ditto ...	.....	27th ditto.
22	"Navavibhákár Sádharani"	Calcutta ...	1,000	30th ditto.	
23	"Prajá Bandhu"	Chandernagore ...	995	27th ditto.	

No.	Names of newspapers.	Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.
BENGALI—concluded.				
<i>Weekly—concluded.</i>				
24	"Pratikár"	Berhampore ...	600	27th January 1888.
25	"Rungpore Dik Prakásh"	Kakiniá, Rungpore ...	205	19th ditto.
26	"Sahachar"	Calcutta ...	500	25th ditto.
27	"Samaya"	Ditto ...	2,850	27th ditto.
28	"Sanjivani"	Ditto ...	4,000	28th ditto.
29	"Sansodhini"	Chittagong ...	800	
30	"Saraswat Patra"	Dacca ...	400	
31	"Som Prakásh"	Calcutta ...	1,000	30th ditto.
32	"Srimanta Saudagár"	Ditto ...	.....
33	"Sulabha Samáchar and Kusadaha"	Ditto ...	3,000	27th ditto.
34	"Surabhi and Patáká"	Ditto ...	700	26th ditto.
<i>Daily.</i>				
35	"Dainik and Samachár Chandriká"	Calcutta ...	7,000	30th ditto.
36	"Samvád Prabhákar"	Ditto ...	200	26th to 31st Jan. and 1st Feb. 1888.
37	"Samvád Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto ...	300	
38	"Banga Vidyá Prakáshiká"	Ditto ...	500	
ENGLISH AND BENGALI.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
39	"Dacca Gazette"	Dacca ...	.....	30th January 1888.
HINDI.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
40	"Kshatriya Pratiká"	Patna ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
41	"Aryávarta"	Calcutta ...	.....	21st and 28th January 1888.
42	"Behar Bandhu"	Bankipore ...	.....
43	"Bhárat Mitra"	Calcutta ...	1,500	26th January 1888.
44	"Sár Sudhánidhi"	Ditto ...	500	23rd ditto.
45	"Uchit Baktá"	Ditto ...	4,500	
46	"Hindi Samáchar"	Bhagulpore ...	1,000	
PERSIAN.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
47	"Jám-Jahán-numá"	Calcutta ...	250	27th ditto.
URDU.				
<i>Weekly.</i>				
48	"Aftal Alum Arrah"	Arrah ...	.....
49	"Anis"	Patna ...	.....	23rd ditto.
50	"Gauhur"	Calcutta ...	196	
51	"Sharaf-ul Akbar"	Behar ...	150	
52	"Al Punch"	Bankipore ...	.....	30th ditto.
<i>Bi-weekly.</i>				
53	"Akhbar-i-darusaltanat"	Calcutta ...	340	24th and 28th January 1888.
<i>Daily.</i>				
54	"Urdu Guide"	Calcutta ...	212	26th to 31st ditto.
URIYA.				
<i>Monthly.</i>				
55	"Taraka and Subhavártá"	Cuttack ...	.....	January 1888.
56	"Pradíp"	Ditto ...	.....
57	"Samyabadi"	Ditto ...	.....	ditto.
<i>Weekly.</i>				
58	"Utkal Dípiká"	Cuttack ...	200	31st Dec. 1887 and 7th Jan. 1888.
59	"Balasore Samvad Váhika"	Balasore ...	205	27th ditto and 5th ditto.
60	"Sanskáraka"	Cuttack ...	200	5th and 12th January 1898.
61	"Navasamvád"	Ditto ...	.....
62	"Uriya"	Balasore ...	.....	4th and 11th ditto.
PAPERS PUBLISHED IN ASSAM.				
BENGALI.				
<i>Fortnightly.</i>				
63	"Silchar"	Silchar ...	.....
<i>Weekly.</i>				
64	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet ...	450	23rd January 1888.

I.—FOREIGN POLITICS.

The *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, has learnt that an expedition will be shortly sent to repair the road to Thibet *via* Sikkim, and asks whether this does not mean that the invasion of Thibet is intended. But Government should take warning in time, and desist from all attempt on Thibet, as an invasion of that country is sure to involve it in a desperate struggle with China. The Burmese War has already impoverished India, and it is easy to imagine what her financial position will be if she is dragged into a war with China.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1893.

II—HOME ADMINISTRATION.

(a)—Police.

2. A correspondent of the *Bangabasi*, of the 28th January, complains of the prevalence of theft in the town of Buxar. The police ought to be on the alert.

BANGABASI,
Jan. 28th, 1893.

3. Another correspondent of the same paper says that the authorities are going to abolish the Rajpore police outpost and to transfer the Sonarpore thanna to that place. But this will be a wrong thing to do. Crime continued unchecked in spite of a thanna and an outpost at a distance of two miles from each other, and it is therefore clear that it will increase fearfully if one of them, the outpost, is abolished. Low class drunkards live in the neighbourhood of the Sonarpore thanna, and they will become more disorderly if the thanna is transferred to Rajpore.

BANGABASI

4. A correspondent of the *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, reports the following case of oppression committed by the police of Jayanagar Mitraganj in the 24-Pergunnahs:—

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1893.

While the correspondent was sitting in a shop at Jayanagar Mitraganj, one Bhabataran Ghose, keeper of a sweetmeat shop, was forcibly dragged away by a police constable named Chhatrapat Singh. The charge against him was that he had been found flying a paper kite on the road-side; but Bhabataran said that he had a quarrel with the constable about the price of some sweetmeats he had sold to the latter. The friends of Bhabataran asked the daroga, Gopal Chundra Dey, to release him. The daroga gave an order for his release, but the constable did not obey the order; so Bhabataran had to furnish security before he was released. But before the case came up for hearing, it was compounded through the intercession of the daroga. This daroga has been known to commit various other oppressions of this nature. The constable who arrested Bhabataran is a favourite of this daroga. This daroga has been too long in the station and he ought to be removed.

5. The *Dainik and Samachar Chandrika*, of the 30th January, says that police oppression is directly traceable to the mixing up of the functions of the Judge and the Magistrate in the same person. Investigations in criminal cases are now conducted by Magistrates and Deputy Magistrates with the help of the police. Under this arrangement the police enjoys the support of the magisterial officers, and is thereby enabled to commit oppression. The Madras High Court has now asked the Government of India to do away with this pernicious system of vesting judicial and execu-

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 30th, 1893.

tive powers in the same person. The Government of India, however, thinks that, with the spread of education in this country, police oppression will diminish of itself. It is of opinion that it is popular ignorance which enables the police to commit acts of oppression. But this opinion of the Government of India is clearly erroneous ; for the police oppresses not only ignorant people, but also those who are educated. The weak, in fact, whether educated or uneducated, are everywhere the victims of police oppression. The Bengalis and Uriyas are more oppressed than the Sikhs and Mahrattas. Instead, therefore, of leaving police reform in this direction to be effected by education, Government should adopt early measures for putting down police oppression, even though the adoption thereof involve increased expenditure of money.

(b)—*Working of the Courts.*

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

6. The *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, brings the following charges against the Deputy Magistrate of Kishoreganj :—
The Deputy Magistrate of Kishoreganj.

- 1.—The Deputy Magistrate has been in Kishoreganj for five years, and during this time he has never paid for his food while out on tour. While visiting Kasimganj, the Deputy Magistrate often goes to Gujadiya, a place in another sub-division, in order to dine at the zemindari cutchery there.
- 2.—During his five years' residence in the sub-division, he has never visited the villages of Mitamail, Adampur, Ghagaya, Ashtagram, &c., situated at the outskirts of the sub-division.
- 3.—In his time stamp vendors do not get stamps until after the expiry of three or four days from their deposit of money. The opium vendors are also in the same predicament. The Deputy Magistrate seems to pay no attention to this matter.
- 4.—He is so indolent that he cannot get through his work in due time, and hence he has often to keep the treasury open on Sundays.
- 5.—The jail and the excise office are close to his residence. Still he cannot find time to inspect them once in two or three months, and he merely signs the papers which are brought to him at his residence.
- 6.—Long grass was grown upon the Government lands adjoining the local jail and the municipal garden. But as cattle belonging to the Deputy Magistrate are now allowed to graze on those lands, long grass can no longer be grown there. Government has therefore probably suffered some loss on this account.
- 7.—The Deputy Magistrate has purchased an elephant, and as he has no garden of his own, the poor people of the place and the ryots are subjected to great oppression in order to find food for the animal.
- 8.—During the rainy season in 1885 or 1886, the Deputy Magistrate used a boat, belonging to the notorious Suruj Miya of Dulalpur, for about three or four months, but he paid no rent to the owner of the boat.
- 9.—The Deputy Magistrate has friends and relations in the villages of Bangram, Mumurdya, and Chakhi; and a Baboo Krishna

Narayan Chowdhuri of Mumurdya is a relation of his, and a case against this man was dismissed because the complainant was unable to produce him in court.

10.—The Deputy Magistrate wants to exclude men of independence from the local Municipality, and he therefore wrote to the Magistrate asking him to deprive a particular ward which had given him a slight offence, which by the way he could have easily pardoned, of the elective franchise.

11.—The Deputy Magistrate has made one Lakshmi Kant Roy an Honorary Magistrate. The man Lakshmi Kant is a great friend of his, going with him wherever he goes, and remaining with him wherever he remains. The people therefore naturally look upon Lakshmi Kant as another Deputy Magistrate.

7. A correspondent of the same paper thus answers the charges brought against the Deputy Magistrate of Basirhat in another issue of this paper (see Report on Native Papers for week ending 28th January 1888, paragraph 10.)

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

1.—The first charge against the Deputy Magistrate is that he is irregular in his attendance at court.

But Deputy Magistrates have to conduct local investigations and do other work for which they are often compelled to travel great distances from their courts, and hence arises this occasional irregularity in attending court.

2.—The second charge is that the Deputy Magistrate does not come to court every day for the purpose of receiving applications.

The answer to the first charge is also an answer to this. Surely it is impossible for a Deputy Magistrate on tour to come to court every day to receive applications.

3.—The third charge against the Deputy Magistrate is that he is in the habit of striking off cases.

The answer to this charge is that he has never up to this time unjustly struck off a case.

4.—The fourth charge is that the Deputy Magistrate does not read out to witnesses their depositions.

This is a false charge.

5.—The charge that the work of the treasury is not properly done by the Deputy Magistrate is also without foundation. The fact is, more treasury work is done in his time than was done by his predecessor.

(c)—Jails.

8. The *Som Prakāsh*, of the 30th January, says that fourteen prisoners who were the other day being brought over from Barisal to Khulna in a

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

Prisoners in tattered garments. steamer were found to have only tattered blankets and shirts on their persons. The writer himself was in the steamer and witnessed the miserable condition of the prisoners. Does Government mean to inflict additional punishment on poor prisoners by thus compelling them to travel in wretched tattered garments?

(d)—Education.

9. The *Rungpore Dik Prakāsh*, of the 19th January, says that the majority of the boys attending the pathsalas of Rungpore belong to the agricultural class.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
Jan. 19th 1888.

Agricultural education in the pathsalas of Rungpore.

Out of 50 boys in a pathsala not more than two or three belong to the non-agricultural classes.

The agriculturists of Rungpore are a very simple and unambitious class of people. They are satisfied with coarse food and clothing. They do not also like to leave their homes for lucrative employment in other districts. High education cannot spread among such a people. On the other hand, agricultural instruction is likely to be of the greatest use and advantage to them, and it is therefore necessary and desirable that Government should introduce such instruction in agricultural districts like Rungpore.

DARUSSALTANAT,
Jan. 24th, 1888.

10. The *Darussaltanat*, of the 24th January, wishes to know why the order of the Secretary of State, that none but natives should be appointed in the Education Department to posts carrying salaries exceeding Rs. 200 without his sanction, has not been carried out.

SULABH SAMACHAR &
KUSHDAHA.
Jan. 27th, 1888.

11. The *Sulabh Samachar and Kushdaha*, of the 27th January, referring to the Moral Education Resolution of the Government of India, observes as follows:—

1. The cause of moral education will gain nothing if Government rests satisfied with simply saying that in Government and Board Schools religious and moral instruction should be imparted out of school hours, and that religious instruction may be freely given in the aided schools.

Indian teachers and Indian pupils take no interest in moral education. The teachers are only anxious to have their pupils passed in the public examinations, and the pupils know that if they can only successfully pass the examination they will win the good opinion of all whom they care to please. Consequently, teachers will not impart and pupils will not receive moral instruction unless Government insists on their doing so. It is desirable on this account that separate examinations should be prescribed for testing moral education, and that separate scholarships and prizes should be awarded to boys of good character.

2. The Government policy of religious non-interference seems to stand in the way of its insisting on the imparting of moral education in Indian schools. But the question has a practical aspect which should not be overlooked. Indian boys and their parents have now no faith in any religion, and so there will be no religious interference if Government insists on imparting moral education in Indian schools. Some people may yet object. But their objection will lose all force if moral instruction is confined to the teaching of the most universal and unsectarian principles of conduct.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

12. The *Samaya*, of the 27th January, says that it is now nearly two years since the Central Text-book Committee promised to publish a list of text-books. That promise still remains unredeemed. It is hoped that the Committee will soon wipe off the disgrace which they have brought upon themselves by their procrastination.

SAMAYA.

13. The same paper thinks that the mere introduction of moral text-books in the schools in this country will fail to improve school-boy morality. School-boys will require to be taught morality by their teachers, and it is necessary for that purpose that the teachers themselves should be men of good character. But the want of such teachers is now keenly felt in the schools of this country. The Inspectors of Schools, also, should, on their visit to the schools, attend to the moral training of the pupils, thereby directing the

attention of the school authorities to that subject. The recommendations of the Education Commission in regard to physical training in schools should also be given effect to.

14. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 28th January, says that a Middle English School has been established at Bogra by Baboo Piyari Sankar Das Gupta. The Bogra Municipality should sanction a grant-in-aid for this useful institution.

BANGABASI,
JAN. 28th, 1888.

15. Another correspondent of the same paper says that a school has been established at Chaturia, a village near Magura in Jessore. Many boys of this school have successfully passed the Lower Primary Scholarship Examination. The authorities have been repeatedly asked during the last three years to sanction a grant-in-aid for the school, but to no effect.

BANGABASI.

16. The *Grámbási*, of the 29th January, hopes that the Moral Education Resolution of the Government of India will be duly given effect to in all Government schools, and requests the managers of private and aided schools to introduce moral training in their schools.

GRAMBASI,
JAN. 29th, 1888.

17. The *Dacca Prakásh*, of the 29th January, says that though Hindu society is in a state of decline it is still a much better society than any Christian society. The Hindus still worship God, whom they believe to be present in everything He has created, and they still venerate the King as a god, and cannot think of rising against him. But for this belief in the divinity of Kings, the foreign yoke imposed on them would have proved unsupportable to them. It is Hindu religion, in short, which is supporting the British power in India. The new society, which is thoughtlessly endeavouring to subvert British Rule in India, is the creation of the new Christian education. Unless, therefore, Hindu religion and Hindu manners and customs are taught in Indian schools, this new society will acquire power and gain its object, and the British Lion will then stand the chance of being ousted by the Russian Bear. There can be no doubt that moral instruction ought to form a part of school education in this country. But as the Christian British Government cannot be expected to introduce the teaching of Hindu religion and Hindu morality, however advantageous such teaching may prove to itself, into the Indian schools, it will, if moral instruction is at all introduced, introduce text-books on religion and morality written from the Christian point of view, and by-and-bye text-books written from standpoints directly opposed to the Hindu and Mahomedan religions. And it is the misgiving that something of this kind will gradually be done, that prevents the writer from giving his consent to the introduction by Government of moral text-books in the Indian schools. If morality is to be taught to boys at school, let it be taught by orthodox Brahmins and Moulvies from books written by them from their own standpoints.

DACCA PRAKASH,
JAN. 29th, 1888.

18. The *Navavibhákar Sádharáni*, of the 30th January, says that mere moral text-books will be of little avail in helping young students to form their character; good example being the *sine qua non* for the attainment of that end. So long as the teaching and the conduct of the school-master do not agree, it will be impossible to obtain the desired result.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
JAN. 30th, 1888.

The Indian Government propose that, instead of punishing misconduct, notes should be taken of the good behaviour of school-boys, and to reward well-behaved boys by providing them, when they have finished their studies, with posts in the Government service. This is not a bad plan, but the point should not be overlooked that what native students stand

most in need of is good example. How comes it that these students are so very disobedient? The simple reason is that they see their teachers continually out of harmony among themselves. Bengali head-masters are very fond of their authority, and do not hesitate to insult their subordinates in the presence of a whole class of school-boys. Instances have occurred in which a higher but worthless teacher has insulted one subordinate to him merely at the instigation of some malicious school-boy. As a consequence, the lower teachers, far from respecting those placed above them, behave towards them in a spirit of insubordination, and sometimes even abuse them within the class-room itself. And this is how school-boys learn to be disobedient. Whatever rules Government may introduce with the view of promoting moral education, they will not be effectual so long as school-masters do not learn how to treat each other with genuine respect.

(e)—*Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.*

HINDU RANJIKÁ,
Jan. 15th, 1888.

19. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 15th January, publishes the following petition presented to the Commissioners of the Rampore B-auleah Municipality, on the 8th November 1887, by Benga butcher, who has

A butcher as a Municipal Commissioner.

been recently elected a Commissioner of that Municipality:—

"I am a common and low-born person. The chowkidari tax of eight annas per month has been assessed on me, and I paid it regularly so long as my circumstances permitted. Formerly I used to supply meat to Europeans, but I do not do that business now. There are only two rooms in my house, and they are now out of repair; so that during a shower of rain I have to sit up with all my family. I have not the means to provide myself and family with two meals a day. If an official enquiry is made into my condition, or if my neighbours are referred to regarding me, the municipality will be satisfied that I ought to pay only one anna or at the most one anna and a half as chowkidari tax. If this statement is found to be untrue, I shall pay any penalty which you will be pleased to inflict upon me."

Are the local public to blame for expressing dissatisfaction at the election of such a man as a Municipal Commissioner?

BANGABASI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

20. The *Bangabási*, of the 28th January, says that Government on the one hand is encouraging popular aspiration by introducing and fostering the elective

The Santipore Municipality.

system in the municipalities of this country, and, on the other, damping public zeal by showing disrespect for the elective principle. Baboo Sarat Chandra Roy, the late Vice-Chairman of the Santipore Municipality, made himself highly unpopular during the last three years of his incumbency. He was not on that account elected by the rate-payers at the last municipal election. The rate-payers also prayed to Government not to nominate him as a Commissioner of the Santipore Municipality. But Government has paid no heed to their representations, and nominated Baboo Sarat Chandra as a Commissioner. This is not a solitary instance of Government's disregard for popular opinion. Similar disregard of public opinion has been shown by Government in other municipalities. If Government is at all anxious to see the success of the experiment of Local Self-Government, which it has itself started, it should abandon the policy it is now pursuing in regard to it. If it continues to act according to that policy the country will lose all respect for Self-Government, and the real essence of municipal Self-Government will be destroyed.

GRAMBASÍ,
Jan. 29th, 1888.

21. The *Grámباسí*, of the 29th January, publishes a letter complaining of the oppressions committed by the pound-keeper of Khalna in the district of Howrah.

The cattle-pound at Khalna in the district of Howrah.

The pound-keeper is in the habit of giving a commission of one anna to bad people for every cow they bring into his pound. He also neglects to provide for the food and keep of the impounded cattle. It is hoped that the District Board of Howrah will remove the grievance herein complained of.

22. A correspondent of the *Dacca Prakash*, of the 29th January, says that though it is now a year and a half since the Local Board at Nawabgunge was established, it has yet done no work of any kind. Last year the District Board sanctioned Rs. 1,200 for repairing the road from Nawabgunge to Kalakopa. But owing to the dilatoriness of the Chairman and the Vice-Chairman of the Local Board, the repair was not promptly undertaken. Let that road which is much used, and along which a great deal of traffic is carried on, be first repaired, and then let the repair of the old roads through the villages of Joyakrishnapur, Noyabari, Narisa, Hosanabad and other places be undertaken. And then, if there be funds left for the purpose, let the members of the Board think of constructing new roads leading to their own villages, and not till then. By postponing more important and urgent work in favour of work in which they are only personally interested, they will make themselves liable to the charge of laying the axe at the root of Local Self-Government.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 29th, 1888.

23. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 30th January, does not know how far the circular of the Hooghly District Board, dated the 13th June 1887, relating to the re-excavation of tanks, has been carried into effect. In the meantime the water of the tanks used for drinking purposes is becoming foul and muddy.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

24. The same paper characterises the bye-law of the Hooghly District Board, which makes the removal of the grass growing on public roads a punishable offence, as quite Draconian in character. Another bye-law which proscribes the committing of nuisance on the roads is regarded by the writer as practically useless, as it is impossible to detect and difficult to try such offences. The rest of the bye-laws are good. But it will be very unwise to empower the police to *chalan* offenders.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI.

25. A correspondent of the *Som Prakash*, of the 30th January, says that the village of Nayabari within the jurisdiction of thana Jafarganj, in the sub-division of Manickganj, which was well nigh depopulated by fever and cholera several years ago, is now in a most insanitary condition. The inhabitants are most of them either fever-stricken or suffering from enlargement of the spleen. It has no good tanks. The local Board at Manickganj should clear the village of jungle, and make provision for good drinking water in it, and construct a road leading to the village from the bazar at Vishnupur.

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

26. A correspondent of the same paper is glad that out of three persons whose names were sent to Government for appointment as Commissioners, two have been so appointed. But the rejection of Baboo Rameswar Lahiri, who was one of the three, has caused universal dissatisfaction. The Baboo is an able, experienced, and independent gentleman.

SOM PRAKASH

(g)—*Railways and communications including canals and irrigation.*

27. The *Charuvarta*, of the 23rd January, says that those who come to the Mymensingh Railway station to post letters in the letter-box attached to railway mail vans are insulted and ill-treated by the

CHARU VARTA.
Jan. 23rd, 1888.

Letter-boxes attached to railway mail vans.

railway servants. They are not allowed to cross the railway platform for the purpose of posting letters. Well, if it be contrary to railway rules and regulations to post letters in railway mail vans, let a notice, by all means, be put up to that effect; or let a postal notice be given to the effect that letter-boxes placed at the railway stations will be cleared five minutes before the arrival of the mail trains.

SABACHAR,
Jan. 25th, 1888.

The Irrigation Commission.

28. It appears to the *Sabachar*, of the 25th January, from the statements made to the Irrigation Commission by Mr. Solano, the Italian zemindar, that four crores of rupees have been uselessly spent in making the Sone Canal navigable, and that one crore would have been sufficient for the purpose. It is extravagance of this kind that leads to oppression in the imposition and collection of the canal rates. That canal water is not good for all kinds of land is a fact often lost sight of by the officers of the Public Works Department. Canals generally do more harm than good to the country, and are financial failures which compel Government to suck the life-blood of the ryots for the purpose of recovering the loss which it sustains from their construction. It is Mr. Solano and not any disloyal native editor, who is proving this.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Jan. 26th, 1888.

The Gewonkhali Tidal Canal.

29. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 26th January, hopes that the authorities will adopt either of the two proposals made in the application which has been submitted to the Chief Engineer in the Irrigation Department by the inhabitants of the villages of Natsale and Rajchok in the pergunnah of Maisadal, for the purpose of preserving water in the Gewonkhali Tidal Canal.

SAMAYA.
Jan. 27th, 1888.

Railway fares on goods.

30. The *Samaya*, of the 27th January, says that in 1886-87 Bombay had to import ghee from Persia. Besides the deterioration of the breed of cows in India, another cause of this importation of foreign ghee is to be found in the high fares charged by the Indian railways for the transit of goods. In the present instance, the cost of bringing goods from Persia by means of ships is less than that of bringing them by rail from any place in India. Government should look to the matter.

BANGABASI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

The road from Krishnagar to Moorshedabad.

31. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 28th January, complains that the road from Krishnagar to Moorshedabad is out of repair. The contractor is repairing the road in a very indifferent manner. The authorities are requested to supervise the contractor's work.

BANGABASI.

The road from Sonarpore to Narayanpore in the 24-Pergunnahs.

32. A correspondent of the same paper complains that the road from Sonarpore to Narayanpore in the 24-Pergunnahs is out of repair. The authorities are requested to remove this inconvenience by thoroughly repairing the road.

BANGABASI.

The bridge over the Gunduck at Hajipore.

33. Another correspondent of the same paper says that a toll of one anna is levied on all passengers on the bridge over the Gunduck at Hajipore. The bridge is very useful to the public, who, however, consider it a great hardship to have to pay so heavy a toll. Government is requested to levy a toll of one pice per head on this bridge. If this is done, the passenger traffic of the bridge will increase, and with it the Government revenue therefrom.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

A road at Habibpore in Burrisal.

34. A correspondent of the *Dacca Gazette*, of the 30th January, complains of the want of a road at Habibpore, a village within the jurisdiction of the Gournadi station in Burrisal. The students of the Local Circle School can-

not regularly attend it for want of a good road. The authorities are requested to construct a road in the village.

35. The *Som Prakash*, of the 30th January, says that as traffic is the chief source of income from railways, it is necessary that officers in charge of the Traffic

SOM PRAKASH,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

The Bengal State Railways.

Department in railways should be men of business and experience. But this is unfortunately not the case on the Dacca line. When Mr. Barclay was Traffic Superintendent at Dacca, he appointed Baboo Purna Chunder Singh on the Dacca line after mature consideration. The Baboo was formerly Traffic Superintendent on the Mutla line. But when Mr. Drury was appointed in the place of Mr. Barclay, he began to transfer Purna Baboo from place to place, and at last ordered him to do clerical work at Sealdah, and one Mr. Chamberlain was appointed in his place on the line. Now the question arises, why was the Baboo degraded and a European appointed in his place? Is the European a man of greater ability than the Baboo? Government ought to keep a sharp eye over these things. If right men are not appointed in the right places, there is no chance of Government being able to work these railways at a profit.

(h)—General.

36. The *Hindu Ranjika*, of the 15th January, says that a numerous signed memorial has been submitted to the

HINDU RANJIKA,
Jan. 15th, 1888.

A capital punishment.

Lieutenant-Governor praying for the commutation of the sentence of death passed on a boy 16 years old, by the District Judge of Tipperah, for murdering his uncle, to one of transportation. The boy is subject to fits of insanity. It is hoped that the Lieutenant-Governor will grant the prayer.

37. The *Darussaltanat*, of the 24th January, referring to the case of Sadhu Sahu, requests that the sentence of

DARUSSALTANAT,
Jan. 24th, 1888.

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

transportation passed upon the accused may be commuted, and that the Penal Code and the Evidence Act may be amended in such a way that offenders like the zemindar Sitanath Roy may be brought to justice.

38. It appears to the *Burdwan Sanjivani*, of the 24th January, from the judgment passed in his case by the High

BURDWAN SANJIVANI,
Jan. 24th, 1888.

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

Court and the committing Magistrate, that Sadhu Sahu did not wilfully murder his wife. His wife was being wronged by a powerful zemindar, and he himself was powerless to avenge that wrong. What could the poor man do? Can any man, having flesh and blood, go quietly away leaving his wife in the arms of her ravisher? Upwards of 700 respectable men have memorialised Government on behalf of that much-wronged man. And this ought to convince Government that in the opinion of these men, and in the opinion of the society which they represent, Sadhu Sahu is an innocent man. His case is therefore one in which His Honour may very properly exercise his prerogative of mercy.

39. The same paper approves of the raising of the salt duty by Government, and thinks that the measure will

BURDWAN SANJIVANI

Increase of the salt duty.

not much affect the poor people. Government should also replenish its treasury by levying an import duty on European piece-goods.

40. The *Sahachar*, of the 25th January, says that Lieutenant-Colonel Thomas is on his way to Burma to

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 25th, 1888.

Reduction of military expenditure in Burma.

reduce military expenditure in that country.

What does this farce mean? Military expenditure in Burma is sure to remain as it is now, and the Colonel's journey will only add to it.

SARAKHAN,
Jan. 26th, 1888.

41. Referring to the case of Mr. Runburn, the tea-planter, the same paper says that, in view of repeated oppressions of this nature, a Commission to enquire into the condition of the coolies in Assam ought to be appointed without delay. Lord Ripon perceived the necessity of taking some such step. Mr. Elliott, the late Chief Commissioner of Assam, knew what sort of stuff the planters are made of. The people expect justice and good government at the hands of Mr. Fitzpatrick, the new Chief Commissioner. Coolie oppression in Assam has become quite a scandalous affair, and the Government of Lord Dufferin ought to put it down without delay.

Coolie oppression in Assam.

SARAKHAN.

42. The same paper expresses satisfaction at the increase of the salt duty by Government, and says that it would have been still more satisfied if Government had abolished the income-tax and reimposed the duty on English piece-goods. But as the latter step would have invoked opposition from the Manchester weavers, too strong to be braved by either the Government in India or in England, it was not to be thought of. Those who say that the increase of the duty will cause hardship to the poor, forget that those who can procure food for two meals can also procure a little salt.

The increase of the salt duty.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Jan. 26th, 1888.

43. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 26th January, hopes that Government will carefully consider the objections raised against the proposed abolition of the Calcutta Mint by the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association in the letter which they have recently addressed to it on the subject.

The Calcutta Mint.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

44. The same paper thinks that there is hardly anybody who deserves more pity than Sadhu Sahu, and it therefore asks Government to remit the sentence of transportation passed on him.

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

SURABHI & PATAKA.

45. The same paper says that all notifications in the *Gazette of India* are usually published in the name of the Governor-General in Council. But the notification in the last Thursday's *Gazette of India* Extraordinary, increasing the duty on salt, seems to have been made in a very different style, the Members of His Excellency the Viceroy's own Council knowing no more of the matter than the general public, before the publication of the notification. This shows that the Governor-General is not always bound to take the opinions of his Counsellors. In the present matter His Excellency simply carried out the wishes of the Secretary of State for India. Now if the Secretary of State can do just as he likes in matters of such importance, where is the necessity of appointing a Viceroy and a Viceregal Council? And yet the people of this country hope to see representative councils established by such a Government as this!

The increase of the salt duty.

The salt duty, though it falls on everybody, presses most upon the poor. Instead of increasing the duty in salt, it would have been better to have imposed a duty on European piece-goods. Though a duty on European piece-goods would have affected the poor like the salt duty, still it would have enabled the cloth mills of India to compete more successfully than now with those of England.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

46. The *Pratikár*, of the 27th January, hopes that the kind-hearted, popular, highminded and religiously disposed Sir Stuart Bayley will exercise his prerogative of mercy in the case of Sadhu Sahu, as has been prayed for by the memorialists of Orissa.

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

47. The *Prajá Bandhu*, of the 27th January, says that by increasing the salt duty by means of a gazette notification, Government has departed from the practice ordinarily followed in such cases of assigning reasons for

The increase of the salt duty.

measures of this kind. But the reason of this measure, though not stated, is not far to seek. By reducing the salt duty, Lord Ripon earned the gratitude of the poor people of India; but by engaging in the Burmese War and strengthening the frontier defences of India, Lord Dufferin has deprived them of the advantage which they had hitherto enjoyed in consequence of Lord Ripon's benevolent reduction of the salt duty. Cursed was the hour when His Excellency Lord Dufferin set foot on Indian soil. His crooked policy has impoverished India. The people can suffer no more. But who is there to whom to tell this tale of woe, and who is there to listen to it if told? Alas! Providence has more misery in store for India!

48. Referring to the case of Sadhu Sahu, the same paper says that Sadhu Sahu has been more wronged than

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

PRAJA BANDHU,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

was Nobin in the celebrated case of the Mohunt of Tarkeswar. Sir Steuart Bayley, it is hoped, will exercise his prerogative of mercy in favour of Sadhu.

49. The *Samaya*, of the 27th January, says that with the increase of the duty on salt, its price has also in-

The increase of the salt duty.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

creased. Salt was hitherto selling at about 50 or 60 rupees per 100 maunds, but it is now selling at more than 100 rupees per 100 maunds. Thus people will now have to pay 2 pice more for every seer of salt they will consume.

The burden of taxation is continually increasing owing to the administration of Lord Dufferin. It is not to His Excellency's credit that he has failed to satisfy the people who enjoyed peace and good government during the administration of his immediate predecessor Lord Ripon. His Excellency's Indian administration is taking away from the reputation which he earned as Governor of Canada. His Excellency does not shrink from increasing the fiscal burdens of his Indian subjects, but he is in perpetual dread of the weavers of Lancashire.

50. The same paper hopes that the Lieutenant-Governor will exercise his prerogative of mercy in favour of Sadhu

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

Sahu. Sadhu Sahu's case is similar to that of

SAMAYA.

Nobin in the celebrated case against the Mohant of Tarkeswar, and Nobin's sentence was remitted by Sir Richard Temple. Having regard to the circumstances under which Sadhu committed the crime of which he has been found guilty, he ought to be let off with a light punishment.

51. The *Samvad Prabhakar*, of the 28th January, disapproves of the action of Government in increasing the

The salt duty.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

duty on salt. The poor cultivators of this country cannot eat their meals without large quantities of salt, and the increase of the salt duty will therefore produce great distress among them. Again, the increase of the salt duty was not the only course open to Government. The import duties, which were abolished for the benefit of the English traders alone, ought to have been re-imposed.

52. The *Bangabasi*, of the 28th January, disapproves of Govern-

The salt duty.

BANGABASI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

ment's proposal to increase the duty on salt.

Salt is an important article of food and very necessary for the preservation of health. Not even the poorest man can take a morsel of food without salt. A benevolent Government ought to see that such an important article is sold very cheap and is easily procured everywhere. But the Government of India is acting contrary to this principle. Those who are in favour of raising the duty on salt say that the poorer classes use salt in very small quantities and that the proposed increase in the salt duty will not therefore affect them in the least. But this is not a correct view of the matter. It has been found that when the price of salt is lowered its sale increases, which means that

more people use salt when it is cheap than when it is not cheap. In the year in which the salt duty was reduced by Lord Ripon, 16,50,000 maunds more of salt was sold. Those alone who have visited the poor in their villages can form any idea of the difficulty to which this increase of the salt duty will expose them. But the Government does not look to the comfort or convenience of its poor subjects.

BANGABATI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

53. The same paper hopes that Sir Steuart Bayley will grant the prayer of the memorialists of Orissa for the exercise of his prerogative of mercy in favour

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

of Sadhu Sahu. Sir Steuart Bayley will never find such an opportunity of showing mercy to a man who really deserves it.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

54. The *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, asks the authorities to ameliorate the hard lot of the post peons of Calcutta. These peons work every day

The post peons of Calcutta.

from 6 in the morning to 6 in the evening. If they fall ill and cannot attend to their work, their pay is deducted; but those who officiate for them do not get any extra allowance. And all this notwithstanding, the poor fellows get only Rs. 10 per month. As they cannot find time for cooking their food during the day, they have to purchase food in the bazar at a high price.

SANJIVANI.

55. The same paper says that it would have been better if, for the purpose of meeting the deficit in next year's budget, Government had increased the

The increase of the salt duty.

income-tax instead of raising the duty on salt. The increase in the salt duty will prevent poor people from purchasing as much salt as they require. It is a well-known maxim of political economy that the barest necessities of life should be exempted from taxation, because if that is not done the burden of taxation falls equally on the rich and the poor. According to Bentham, a portion of every man's income, sufficient to enable him to purchase the necessities of life, should be exempted from taxation. Salt being a necessary article of consumption, should, in accordance with these principles, be exempted from taxation. Besides, as poor people in this country often eat their meals with salt only, they necessarily require larger quantities of that article than rich men, and hence their share of the increased burden of the salt duty will be heavier than that of the rich and the well-to-do.

It is no wonder that a paper like the *Hindu Patriot*, which is admittedly an organ of the rich only, should speak of the increase of the salt duty in terms of approbation, for it is the same paper which advocated the increase of the salt duty for the purpose of saving the rich from the burden of paying the income-tax.

SANJIVANI.

56. The same paper is sorry that while enquiring into the working of outstills at Uluberia, Bauria and Sarenga,

Mr. Westmacott and the out-stills.

Mr. Westmacott did not, as before, issue notices calling upon the public to give evidence before him. This omission is probably only a mistake. It is hoped that Mr. Westmacott will conduct his enquiry into the outstills in the same spirit of honesty which he displayed at the commencement of his enquiry.

SANJIVANI

57. The same paper has not the slightest doubt that Sir Steuart Bayley will exercise his prerogative of mercy in favour of Sadhu Sahu.

The case of Sadhu Sahu.

DACCA PRAKASH,
Jan. 29th 1888.

58. The *Dacca Prakash*, of the 29th January, is exceedingly sorry to hear of the increase of the salt duty.

The increase of the salt duty.

That Lord Dufferin would so readily destroy the chief glory of Lord Ripon's administration was not even dreamt by the writer. It is a most lamentable thing for Government first to whimsically

increase the cost of administration and then to suck the blood of the poor Indian people for money.

59. The *Grámbsí*, of the 29th January, by way of illustrating the mischievous operation of the outstill system in this country, observes that in Beraberia, Chandrapur and Bagnan, within sub-division Uluberia, little children of seven or eight years of age have taken to drinking. Little children steal fruit from their parents' gardens, sell them at the bazars, and with the money thus obtained buy liquor and drink it.

GRAMBASÍ,
Jan. 29th, 1888.

50. The *Dacca Gazette*, of the 30th January, says that the increase of the salt duty will cause no end of distress among the poorer classes of people in this country. Salt forms the most important factor of the meal which is eaten by the poor cultivator of Bengal. The reduction of the salt duty by Lord Ripon enabled the poor cultivator to eat as much salt as he requires, but he will now be deprived of the boon he received from Lord Ripon. As the expenditure of the Government of India is continually exceeding its income, there is no knowing how many taxes will yet be imposed on the poor people of India.

DACCA GAZETTE,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

61. A correspondent of the same paper complains that there is no post-office near Habibpore, a village in the Burrisal district. The inhabitants of the village have to go to the Wazirpore post-office, at a long distance from their village, in order to send money orders by post. Letters are not regularly delivered in their village. There are two or three zemindari cutcherries in the village, and the well-known Zirabkatihat is situated in its neighbourhood. The establishment of a post-office at Habibpore will prove profitable to Government.

DACCA GAZETTE.

62. The *Navavibhakar Sádharaní*, of the 30th January, regrets that Mr. Westmacott did not, in the course of his tour of inspection, visit the outstill at Bhastara, although he went to Bainchi, within eight miles of that place. Is it owing to its distance from the railway line that the Magistrate did not visit that place? Be that as it may, Mr. Westmacott may yet ascertain all about the Bhastara outstill if he goes to the outstills at Dhanakhali, Makhalpur and Dwarbasini.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

63. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 26th January, says that the Select Committee now sitting on the Calcutta Municipal Bill has given a partial report thereon. Such a report is a new thing altogether. While granting most of the prayers made by the Chamber of Commerce, the Trades' Association and the European and Anglo-Indian Defence Association, the Committee has rejected the prayers made not only by the British Indian Association, the Indian Association and other native bodies, but also by the Calcutta Municipality itself. Thus the interests of the European community have been promoted at the cost of those of the Hindu and Mahomedan communities.

SURABHI & PATÁKA,
Jan. 26th, 1888.

While the area of the Municipality has been increased from 6 to 18 square miles, and its population by 200,000 souls, the number of Commissioners has been increased by three only!

The proposal to increase the number of Commissioners from 72 to 80 has been rejected.

Out of 75 Commissioners, 50 will be elected by the rate-payers and 15 will be nominated by Government, and of the remaining 10, four will

be nominated by the Bengal Chamber of Commerce, four by the Trades' Association, and two by the Port Commissioners. It is not easy to see why these private bodies should be allowed to elect so many as 10 Commissioners. The power thus given to these bodies, consisting as they mostly do of European members, will lead to the addition of ten more European Members to the municipal body, thereby producing a fatal preponderance of the European element in the Corporation. The Bengal Council should reject this proposal of the Select Committee.

The whole municipal area is proposed to be divided into 25 wards, each ward of which will be represented by two Commissioners, irrespective of its area, population and number of voters. What a beautiful provision this! The result of it will be that, notwithstanding that the number of voters in the European wards may be very small, they will elect the same number of Commissioners as other wards, with a considerably larger number of voters. Six European wards will thus elect 12 European Commissioners at the least.

The High Court and the Court of Small Causes are situated in Ward No. 12. This ward has about 350 voters who are either pleaders or muktears. As these pleaders and muktears are all natives, this ward has every probability of being represented by two native Commissioners. To prevent this, these voters have been deprived of their right of voting by the Select Committee. The Select Committee has proposed that they will vote for the wards in which they reside. Now this proposal of the Select Committee will have the effect of excluding from the rank of voters many pleaders practising in Calcutta, who have not their residences within the limits of the town itself.

If these voters are thus disqualified, this ward will be represented by European shop-keepers residing within its limits; and that means another addition of two more European Commissioners to the Municipality. Thus, if the recommendations of the Select Committee be carried out, the number of European Commissioners will be $10+10+2$, or 22. Again, out of the 15 Commissioners which Government will nominate, at least seven or eight will be Europeans, and thus the total number of European Commissioners will be 30. Thus out of 75 Commissioners 30 will be Europeans. This will, indeed, be a beautiful state of things in a municipality where more than 15 annas and 9 pies of the rate-payers and residents are Hindus and Mahomedans! The Select Committee knows that its proposals, if adopted, will lead to a preponderance of the European element in the Municipality, and it has therefore thought it necessary to tell the public a different story. "The Committee do not consider that it will make very material difference in the nationality of the Corporation, nor do they adopt it mainly on that ground." But the public will at once see that this assurance is only a make-believe. The proposal of the Committee to give a plurality of votes to certain voters will also invest the European members of the Municipality with undue influence in the municipal administration.

SAMAYA
Jan. 27th 1888.

64. The *Samaya*, of the 27th January, says that, if Mr. Irving's proposal that one-half of the Commissioners of the Calcutta Municipality should be Anglo-Indian merchants, be carried into effect, the natives will simply have to leave the town. For in that case the Anglo-Indians will be able to carry even their most selfish proposals through the Municipal Board without opposition, for they will always have on their side the votes of one or two Commissioners outside their own body. And will not the interests of the natives then suffer? It is hoped that Sir Steuart Bayley will reject Mr. Irving's proposal. The proposal regarding plurality of votes is a good one.

65. The *Samvād Prabhākar*, of the 27th January, takes exception to the recommendations of the Select Committee on the Calcutta Municipal Bill. The

The Calcutta Municipal Bill.

SAMVAD PRABHAKAR,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

Committee have paid no heed to the suggestions of the Calcutta Municipal Commissioners and to the proposals made by the native Political Associations. Under these circumstances, it is not easy to see why Government is inviting the public to express their opinion on the Municipal Bill. The public bodies in Calcutta are of opinion that the number of elected Commissioners should be 80; but the Select Committee have recommended that the number should be 75. The Chamber of Commerce, the Trades' Association and the Port Commissioners will be empowered to elect Commissioners. It is recommended that the British Indian Association, the Indian Association, and the National Mahomedan Association should be similarly empowered to return members to the Municipal Board. It was at first proposed that the Fellows and Graduates of the Calcutta University would be empowered to return a member for the ward in which the Senate House is situated. But it is now proposed that they should be permitted to vote in the ward in which they reside. This is a good amendment. The writer objects to the rejection by the Select Committee of the clause in the first Municipal Bill empowering the municipality to spend money on mass education. It is a pity that the Metropolitan Municipality will be denied the right which even the Mofussil Municipalities enjoy. It has been decided by the Select Committee that Barristers, Pleaders, Vakils and Attorneys will not be able to vote in the ward in which they carry on business. It is clearly the object of the Select Committee that European Commissioners should predominate in the Calcutta Municipality. The Select Committee are only looking to the interests of the European residents of the town, and their recommendations are therefore one-sided. The Government is requested not to accept those recommendations.

66. The *Dainik and Samāchār Chandrika*, of the 30th January, says that at the last meeting of the Viceregal Council, the Hon'ble Raja Peary Mohan Mookerjee said that the increase of the salt

The question of taxation in the Viceregal Council.

DAINIK & SAMACHAR
CHANDRIKA,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

duty will do no harm to the country; but if, as is proposed, a duty is levied on kerosine oil, the people will suffer, for even the poor use that oil. The Hon'ble Member was clearly in error here, for salt being a necessary article of consumption, increase of duty on that article will undoubtedly cause much hardship to the poor. His Excellency the Viceroy expressed his regret that during his administration new taxes had been imposed and old ones increased. His Excellency, however, would have had no occasion for expressing such regret if he had not engaged in the unlucky Burmese War. The Finance Minister taunted those people who are opposed to new taxation by saying that there is no reason why Government should not undertake any new work because there is not money to undertake it. The Finance Minister is as yet new to his office, and that is why he has been able to indulge in sarcasm in a matter of this kind. Nobody blames Government for undertaking anything, but everybody blames it for undertaking the wrong thing.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

67. The *Darussaltanat*, of the 24th January, says that the native chiefs are as mere puppets in the hands of the British Residents and Political Agents.

Political Agent in the Native States.

DARUSSALTANA,
Jan. 24th, 1888.

The *Statesman* has brought to light the fact that the Nizam did not of his own motion make the large offer of 60 lakhs to the British Government. He is too poor to be able to give away so much money. If Colonel

Marshall and Mr. Cordery do not therefore give up the name of the man who induced the Nizam to make the offer, they will be open to the suspicion of having themselves worked upon His Highness. Government should in future receive with more caution the reports of its dutiful and over-zealous agents in the native courts. The Resident at Hyderabad has nominated Serajul Hussain, a brother of Abdul Huq, to the Commissioner-ship of the northern districts of that State, although it is the Nizam's own desire to appoint another person to that post. The strong pressure which the Resident has brought to bear upon the Nizam in this matter has been so annoying to the Nizam that he is not showing himself out of doors. It is strange that a prince of the Nizam's position should be deprived of the freedom of choosing his own officers. The Residents meddle in the internal affairs of Native States to an extent which knows no bounds. To rectify this state of things, it is necessary that there should be direct inter-communication between the Government and the Native States, and that the Residents should, like other Government officers, be transferred from time to time.

It is again reported that Sir Lepel Griffin went to pay his respects to the Begum of Bhopal, and got so seriously offended with her because she did not, owing to some unavoidable circumstance, come out to receive him that he readily accepted the canard, hatched by some intriguers, that she had gone mad and was consequently unfit to govern her State. It is passing strange that a person in the full enjoyment of her senses should be represented to be insane. The fact is that the Europeans are as little able to judge of native ways and manners as Mr. Lalmohun Ghose is to express an opinion upon Irish Home Rule.

BANGABASI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

68. The *Bangabási*, of the 28th January, referring to the recent disturbances in Nepal, says that Runbir Jung, the son of the late illustrious Sir Jung Bahadur, is a staunch friend of the English. Will Lord Dufferin, then, take up a hostile attitude towards Runbir Jung at the instigation of Shumsher, the present Prime Minister?

Shumsher is trying to influence Lord Dufferin in many ways. It is said that he is coming to pay a visit to the Viceroy. It remains to be seen how Lord Dufferin will extricate himself from his difficult situation. Colonel Girdlestone, the Nepal Resident, has been summarily dismissed, and many misgivings have arisen in the public mind in this connection. It is rumoured that an attempt was made on the life of the Resident, for which he has been removed from Nepal, and Government is trying to hush up the matter. Everything in connection with Nepal affairs is shrouded in mystery. Government ought to publish the facts connected with the sudden removal of Colonel Girdlestone from the Nepal Durbar.

DARUSSALTANAT
Jan. 28th, 1888.

69. The *Darussaltanat*, of the 28th January, fails to see why Sir Lepel Griffin thought it necessary to require the Begum of Bhopal to remove her veil in his presence and to live apart from her husband.

V.—PROSPECTS OF THE CROPS AND CONDITION OF THE PEOPLE.

SAMAYA,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

60. The *Samaya*, of the 27th January, says that as the crops have failed in Upper Burmah Government ought to take early measures to prevent famine in that county which is already suffering from scarcity of food.

BANGABASI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

71. A correspondent of the *Bangabási*, of the 28th January, complains of the scarcity of good drinking water at Jorepukur, a village near Dulai in the Pubna District, from the month of Falgun to Jaistha. The two or three

tanks that exist in the village are nearly silted up, and contain only a little muddy water. The District Board was requested to re-excavate the tanks, but to no purpose. Government is therefore requested to attend to the matter.

VI.—MISCELLANEOUS.

72. A correspondent of the *Rungpore Dik Prakash*, of the 19th January, praises Surgeon-Major Rassik Lall Dutt, the Civil Surgeon of Rungpore, for his many noble qualities. He treats poor patients free of charge and is very kind to them. His amiable disposition, and affable manners and good moral character, have made him very popular at Rungpore. Among natives he has the best claim to a Professorship in the Medical College. The just and noble Sir Steuart Bayley is requested to appoint him as a Professor in the Calcutta Medical College, and thus to reward a really deserving officer, and honour the Bengalis.

RUNGPORE DIK
PRAKASH,
Jan. 19th, 1888.

73. The *Sar Sudhanidhi*, of the 23rd January, says that in consideration of the extreme usefulness of cattle, Government should provide for their preservation by prohibiting cow-slaughter, or, if that be impracticable, by limiting the evil practice of cow-slaughter as much as possible.

SAR SUDHANIDHI,
Jan. 23rd, 1888.

74. The *Sahachar*, of the 25th January, repudiates the charge of cowardice brought against the Bengalis by Sir Syed Ahmed, and says that those who bring this charge do not know history. During the days of Hindu supremacy, the Pandavas, who conquered all other provinces of India, failed to conquer Bengal. What does that mean? To come down to Mahomedan times. The Prime Minister of Akbar was a Hindu. Raja Man Singh was not only the Commander-in-Chief of the Moghul forces, but also the Governor of Cabul during the reign of Jahangir. When Raja Pratapaditva of Bengal rose in rebellion against the Great Moghul, it was Raja Man Singh, the Hindu General of the Emperor, who was sent down to put him down. Pratapaditya fought bravely, and Pratapaditya was a Bengali and his army was a Bengali army. When General Harris attacked Tippu, he had some Bengali soldiers under him. General Baird, when he mounted the breach in the walls of Seringapatan, had under him two corps of Bengali soldiers. The writer of this paper himself saw some Bengali soldiers in Chittagong in 1857-58, and conversed with them. Babus Khetra Mohan Ghose and Jadava Chunder Ghose used to go to them every year to give them their pension. Those two Baboos are still living. Amongst Bengalis those who live on the banks of rivers and in maritime towns are generally strong and courageous. When Alivardi Khan defeated the Mahrattas he had many Bengali soldiers of the guro gowallah caste under him.

SAHACHAR,
Jan. 25th, 1888.

The real secret why Bengalis do not accept service in the army is the low pay which is given to the sepoy. Thanks to the permanent settlement, the ryots and the low caste people in Bengal are not so poor that they need enlist themselves as soldiers on a monthly pay of Rs. 7. The present rule obtaining in the Military Department, under which every man must serve as a private soldier for a certain period of time before he is admitted to the higher ranks of the army, stands in the way of respectable native gentlemen entering that service.

When Lord Napier of Magdala proposed the admission of respectable native gentlemen into the higher ranks of the army, many Bengali youths came forward as candidates. The Emperor Napoleon III of France was petitioned by several Bengali youths for admission into the French army. That petition was not granted because the Emperor thought that he

might by so doing create a misunderstanding between England and France.

During the Mahomedan rule, Bengal, though nominally under the rule of a Nawab, was really governed by its powerful Hindu zemindars, and the country really enjoyed political independence. These zemindars had armies of their own with whose help they repelled the invasions of frontier tribes. But they could not have done so if their armies had not been in a state of efficiency. All that has vanished under British Rule!

Those, therefore, who say that the Bengalis are cowards should say so after giving them a fair chance on the field of battle. In the beginning of the present century, the Italians, like the Bengalis, were called cowards. But when men like Charles Albert, King Victor Emanuel, Garibaldi and Mazzini arose amongst them, they showed to the world that valour and physical strength are no monopoly of any particular people. During the Mussulman rule, Bengal was governed like a free country, so that there was wanting in Bengal those conditions and circumstances which led the Italians to rise against the Austrians under the leadership of Victor Emanuel. It should also be borne in mind in this connection that in 1857 a Bengali Munsif took charge of the Allahabad jail and defended it with an army raised by himself. Courage is of two kinds—such courage as is found in the wild beasts, and courage associated with mental power. It is courage of the latter kind that the Bengalis possess. Let Bengalis, then, be first put to the test, and then let the world say that they are cowards.

JAGATBASI,
Jan. 26th, 1888.

75. The *Jagatbási*, of the 26th January, says that an Anglo-Indian newspaper is in ecstasies over Syed Ahmed's Lucknow speech. The Syed is being praised on all sides by men who are anxious to sow the seeds of disunion among the natives.

SURABHI & PATAKA,
Jan. 26th, 1888.

76. The *Surabhi and Patáká*, of the 26th January, says that, in speaking of the Bengalis in 1884, Sir Syed Ahmed delivered himself as follows:—"I confess that the Bengalis are the only people of our country of whom we rightly feel proud. It is solely on account of them that the progress of learning, the progress of liberty, and the truthfulness of feeling have spread in our country. I can rightly say that they are certainly the head of all the peoples of India." But what has happened since 1884, which has led the Syed to change his opinion regarding the Bengalis? It seems that the Syed has been secretly influenced by somebody. Both Hindus and Mahomedans should avoid their secret enemies.

PRATIKAR,
Jan. 27th, 1888.

77. The *Pratikár*, of the 27th January, refers to the following statement in Sir Syed Ahmed's Lucknow speech—"We Mahomedans held supremacy over India for six hundred years, and it is the English who have deprived us of that supremacy. Will Mahomedans ever forget this? Or will Englishmen ever trust them fully?" and observes that the Mussulman who attempts in this way to excite his co-religionists against Englishmen in this country cannot, in spite of all his professions of friendship for the latter, be considered as their real friend. The Syed's tirade against the introduction of the elective system in the government of the country, against the holding of competitive examinations for making appointments to the public service, and against the National Congress, shows that with old age senility has come over him.

BANG-BASI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

78. The *Bangabási*, of the 28th January, says that, although the population of Bengal is seven crores, or nearly double that of England, and although the

The poverty of Bengal.

minimum taxable income in the former country is Rs. 500, and in the latter Rs. 1,500, still the annual revenue derived from this source is Rs. 12 crores in England, and only 40 lakhs in Bengal. This fact clearly demonstrates the extreme poverty of Bengal. It appears, moreover, from the list of income-tax assessments for Bengal that Englishmen, Scotchmen, and other foreigners are by far the richest people in this country.

79. The *Sanjivani*, of the 28th January, says that the munsifs, the pleaders, the Deputy Magistrate, and other people of Netrokona in Mymensingh, assembled in the road cess bungalow for the reception of the District Judge, who was out on tour. While thus waiting, the Deputy Magistrate, Moulvie Fazlal Karim, who was recently charged with adultery, spoke something in a whisper to the second Munsif, whereupon the second Munsif (Akshoy Baboo) asked the assembled gentlemen to convene a meeting on the spot and to give expression to the sorrow which the local public felt on account of the transfer of Moulvie Fazlal Karim which would shortly take place. Baboo Kali Kumar, a Pleader of the Munsif's Court, said that he had asked many people to convene a meeting for that purpose, but they had declined to do so. After this the Munsif again repeated his request, whereupon the assembly which had gathered to do honour to the District Judge was converted into a meeting to express sorrow for the retiring Maulavi. Here is an instance of the way in which meetings in honour of unpopular officers of Government are sometimes got up.

A meeting in honour of Moulvie Fazlal Karim, the Deputy Magistrate of Netrokona.

SANJIVANI,
Jan. 28th, 1888.

70. The *Navavibhakar Sadharani*, of the 30th January, says that Sir Syed Ahmed has, in one way, done a very good thing by delivering his late speech, in that he has disclosed his true character in an unmistakeable manner. Hitherto his cloak of righteousness had served to deceive men as to his real worth. He has now been found out. Society can only gain by the exposure of such hypocrites. Sir Syed cannot command the respect of all his co-religionists, many of whom are already giving him the lie. His influence with the Mahomedan community is evidently very small. He has in his old age made a fool of himself only to please those Europeans who hate the natives of India.

Sir Syed Ahmed.

NAVAVIBHAKAR
SADHARANI,
Jan. 30th, 1888.

URIYA PAPERS.

81. The *Samvad Bahika*, of the 29th December, is happy to find that a certain number of outsiders have been appointed as visitors of the Cuttack Jail. It prays that a similar system may be introduced into the Balasore Jail.

The Cuttack Jail.

SAMVAD BAHIKA,
Dec. 29th, 1887.

82. The *Utkal Dipika*, of the 31st December, learns that the 15th of January 1888 was appointed as the date for holding the Subordinate Civil Service examination for 1888, but it was afterwards settled that the examination would be held on the 15th of February following.

The Subordinate Civil Service Examination.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
Dec 31st, 1887.

Such change of date puts a certain number of candidates to great inconvenience. The dates that are fixed for the examination should be advertised in the Gazette long before they come off.

83. The third National Congress still forms one of the most important subjects of discussion in the newspapers of Orissa. They all sympathise with the movement, which they call *national*, and request the Government of India to look upon it in that light. The attitude of the Muhammadan community, headed by Nawab Abdool Latif Khan Banadour, towards the Congress is strongly criticised.

The Congress.

UTKAL DIPIKA,
SAMVAD BAHIKA
Jan. 5th, 1888
URIYA,
Jan. 4th, 1888
SANSKARAKA,
Jan. 5th, 1888.

UTKAL DIPIKA.
Dec. 31st, 1887.

84. The cruel and unnecessary slaughter of cows has excited the religious indignation of the Uriya papers, whose editors, with a few exceptions, are Hindus. They

Cow-slaughter.

argue in various ways, and pray for the enactment of a law stopping cow-slaughter. The *Utkal Dipika* advocates the formation of a society which will attend to this subject, and publishes a letter from the Raja of Talcher, who advocates the cause of those that are against cow-slaughter, and promises to submit a memorial to the Government of India on the subject. The *Samvadbahika* and the *Uriya* of Balasore announce the establishment of a society in that town, having for its object the prevention of indiscriminate cow-slaughter. The society has already succeeded in securing funds with which a large number of old oxen have been rescued from the hands of professional butchers.

SANSKARAKA,
Jan. 5th, 1888.

The Subordinate Executive Service
Examination.

85. A large number of ministerial officers belonging to different offices in Orissa, having applied to Government to abolish the restriction of age that has been imposed on the candidates for the Subordinate Executive Service Examination, with a view to their competing in the same, the *Sanskaraka*, of the 5th January, makes the following remarks:—

"The memorial speaks for itself, and we have very little to add to the arguments brought forward therein, except the fact that the peculiar condition of Orissa demands special consideration in her favour on political and other grounds. We have every sympathy with the objects of the memorial, and we do not doubt that Mr. Metcalfe will be of the same opinion. The concession for which the memorialists pray is a reasonable one and the Government should grant the same without demur."

* * * * *

"The abolition of age restriction will not be enough. The appointment of a sufficient number of Uriyas to the Executive and Judicial Services in Orissa is what we desire."

* * * * *

"That speech of Sir Rivers Thompson, which he delivered in the hall of the Ravenshaw College in 1885, and in which he promised to appoint one native of Orissa every year to the Subordinate Executive Service under the nomination system, still rings in our ears, but unfortunately the pledge thus given publicly was not redeemed last year."

UTKAL DIPIKA,
Jan. 7th, 1888.

The Subordinate Executive Service
Examination.

The Subordinate Executive Service
Examination.

86. The *Utkal Dipika* is also of the same opinion, and requests Government to grant the prayer of the ministerial officers.

SANSKARAKA,
Jan. 12th, 1888.

remarks as follows:—

86. The *Sanskaraka*, of the 12th January, again reverts to the same subject, and

"The principle on which the constitution of the Subordinate Civil Service in Bengal is based requires examination. It was the good old rule that a tolerably educated gentleman, with active limbs, industrious habits, local knowledge, and a thorough training in the district and divisional offices, was the best candidate for admission into the Subordinate Executive Service. For good or for evil, we know not which, Sir George Campbell, who was nothing if not original, introduced a system of examination after the fashion of the Covenanted Indian Civil Service Examination. That the system was faulty, or at best ill-calculated to suit the requirements of Lower Bengal, was proved by the modifications that it underwent at the hands of three successive Lieutenant-Governors who, though aided by all the ingenuity of their respective Secretaries, could not succeed in devising a permanent and uniform scheme that might prove a panacea for all possible evils. We have further noticed that, excepting Sir George Campbell, who was determined to carry out his scheme to the letter, no Lieutenant-Governor was faithful to the scheme as it existed in

is time. Indeed, the departures noticed in Sir Richard Temple's time were so great that, notwithstanding the presence of a large number of passed candidates, His Honour was compelled by circumstances, by the recommendations of Divisional Commissioners, and by local considerations, to make a large number of appointments belonging to the Executive Service under the system of nomination. There were several such loopholes in the practical application of the scheme during the administrations of Sir Ashley Eden and Sir Rivers Thompson. We can quote several instances of young Bengalis being at once appointed Deputy Magistrates and Collectors in the palmy days of Sir Ashley Eden's rule, though they never appeared in any Civil Service Examination. It is not our object to cast any unworthy reflections on the Lieutenant-Governors alluded to, who justly set aside an impracticable and stiff system of examination in order to make room for the fair play of the nomination principle which forced itself upon their attention. What we mean to point out is that the experience of the last 20 years, covering the administrations of four Lieutenant-Governors, conclusively proves that the principle of competition, unless properly conjoined with that of nomination, can never work satisfactorily.

"We are at a great loss to find out the cogent reasons that induced Sir Rivers Thompson to create a modified system of Subordinate Civil Service Examination that has proved to be the most impracticable of all the modified systems hitherto observed. In fact the rigid scheme went so far as to involve in a dismal gloom the active and promising Sub-Deputy Collectors who were impatiently waiting for a favourable turn of fortune, by excluding them for ever from ascending the ladder that led to the precipice of eminence where the Deputy Collectors dwelt. The injustice was too obvious to pass unnoticed. It was for Sir Stuart Bayley to redress that wrong by inserting a clause to the effect that a certain number of Sub-Deputy Collectors might be allowed to appear in the Subordinate Civil Service Examination. We are, however, of opinion that the pruning knife of His Honour can never rest at this point, and that it must cut out a large number of palpable abuses that have crept unopposed into the constitution of the Subordinate Executive Service under the ostensible name of *fair competition*. We shall point out these abuses in the next issue of our paper. In the meantime we exhort all the educated Natives of Orissa interested in the cause of *fair nomination* to form themselves into a corporate body with a strong Managing Committee and copious funds, and take such reasonable steps as they can think of for the purpose of removing the disgraceful *condition of disqualification* which the present system of competitive examination must impose on all Uriyas in the present state of their backward civilization, their limited progress in the Arts and Sciences, and their isolation from the great centres of communication and learning, for which they are not to blame in any way."

ASSAM PAPERS.

87. The *Paridarshak*, of the 23rd January, says that public inconvenience has increased by reason of the Sylhet treasury being closed at one o'clock. The authorities are requested to remove this inconvenience.

PARIDARSHAK,
Jan. 23rd, 1888.

88. The same paper complains of the highhanded proceedings of the Kazibazar police in Sylhet. A police constable arrested a man for committing a nuisance near the bridge over the Kazibazar canal. The policeman dragged him to the house of one Kadir Meah, and, leaving him there, entered into the Meah's house. During his absence the man escaped. On the

PARIDARSHAK.

shop-keepers of the bazar raising a hue-and-cry, the constable came out and pursued the man. The man entered a shop and a scuffle ensued there. The man got the better of the constable, and the constable received injuries on the head from a fall. After this the man effected his escape. The man did not belong to any shop in the bazar, and no one could identify him.

The constable returned to Kadir Meah's house, and after taking his uniform went to the thana. After a short time Grish Chandra Ker and three other head-constables with a number of constables came to Kazibazar and began to maltreat the people whom they met on their way. Grish Chandra Ker used insulting and abusive language to the people of the bazar, arrested 25 of them, and took all of them to the thana. Some of these men were arrested on boats. One boatman was severely assaulted. The oppression practised on these men at the thana was very great. They were kept standing in the sun and insulted and maltreated. Three men, namely, Sahar Ullah, Umed and Yusuf, were subjected to very cruel treatment in order to make them say who had assaulted the constable. They were throttled with such violence that their tongues came out. The tyrannical nature of Grish Chandra Ker is well known at Kazibazar, and his conduct-book will bear this out. He should be at once removed from the service. The present District Superintendent of Police, Sylhet, is a just man, and it is hoped that he will make a careful inquiry and punish the offender. A case is still pending against Grish Chandra, and he should at least be kept under suspension until it is decided.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

BENGALI TRANSLATOR'S OFFICE,
The 4th February 1888.